

Book	Holland Central School District Policy Manual
Section	7000 - Students
Title	Sports and Athletic Program
Code	7420
Status	Active
Legal	8 NYCRR §§ 135 and 136 45 CFR Part 86 Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 USC § 1681 et seq.
Cross References	Policy #7522 - Concussion Management Policy #3420 - Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment in the District
Adopted	January 22, 2018
Last Reviewed	December 6, 2017

General Principles and Eligibility

Athletics are an integral part of a well-balanced educational program. The District's interscholastic athletic program will conform with the Commissioner's regulations, as well as the established rules of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) and the State Education Department.

Athletic eligibility requires that the student:

- a) Provide written parental/guardian consent. A consent form for a student's participation in interscholastic sports must contain information regarding mild traumatic brain injuries (concussions) as specified in Commissioner's Regulations
- b) Obtain medical clearance from the school physician/nurse practitioner or the student's personal physician. The school physician/nurse practitioner retains final approval on all physicals performed by the student's personal physician.
- c) Meet the requirements for interscholastic competition as set forth by the Commissioner's Regulations and the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA).
- d) Comply with all the District rules, codes, and standards applicable to athletic participation.

Title IX Compliance

The Board supports equal athletic opportunities for members of both sexes through interscholastic and intramural activities. To ensure equal athletic opportunities for its students, the District will consider:

- a) Its accommodation of athletic interests and abilities (the nature and extent of the sports program to be offered, including the levels of competition, team competition, and team performance);
- b) The provision of equipment and supplies;
- c) The scheduling of games and practice time;
- d) The provision of travel costs and;
- e) The assignment and compensation of coaches;

- f) The provision of locker rooms, practice and competitive facilities;
- g) The provision of medical and training facilities and services;
- h) The nature and extent of support, publicity and promotion;

The District may consider other pertinent factors as well. Each of the factors will be assessed by comparing availability, quality, type of benefits, kind of opportunities, and form of treatment. Identical benefits, opportunities, or treatment are not required.

The District's Civil Rights Compliance Officer will coordinate the District's efforts to comply with and carry out its responsibilities under Title IX. This person will be appropriately trained and possess comprehensive knowledge about applicable federal and state laws, regulations, and policies. To the extent possible, the District will not designate an employee whose other job duties may create a conflict of interest, such as the Athletic Director.

Booster Clubs

The School District has a responsibility under Title IX to ensure that boys' and girls' programs are provided with equivalent benefits, treatment, services and opportunities regardless of their source. When determining equivalency, therefore, benefits, services, and opportunities attained through private funds - including donations, fundraising, and booster clubs - such funds are considered in combination with all benefits, services, and opportunities.

Athletic Placement Process for Interschool Athletic Programs (APP)

The APP is a method for evaluating students who want to participate in sports at higher or lower levels, consistent with their physical and emotional maturity, size, fitness level, and skills. The Board approves the use of the APP for all secondary school interscholastic team members. The Superintendent will implement procedures for the APP, and will direct the Athletic Director to maintain records of students who have successfully completed the APP.

Student Athletic Injuries

No injured student should be allowed to practice or play in an athletic contest. An appropriate medical professional should diagnose and treat an athlete's injuries. The coach should ensure that any player injured while under his or her care receives prompt and appropriate medical attention, and that all the medical professional's treatment instructions are followed. No student will be allowed to practice or compete if there is a question whether he/she is in adequate physical condition. A physician's certificate may be required before an athlete is permitted to return to practice or competition.

Athletic Program - Safety

The District will take reasonable steps to minimize physical risks posed to students participating in the interscholastic athletic program by:

- a) Requiring timely medical examinations of participants;
- b) Employing appropriately certified and/or licensed staff to coach all varsity, junior varsity, and modified practices and games;
- c) Providing or requiring certified or licensed officials to officiate all competitions;
- d) Ensuring that equipment is both safe and operative within approved manufacturers' guidelines; and
- e) Ensuring that all home fields, courts, pools, tracks, and other areas where athletes practice, warm-up, or compete are safe and appropriate for use; and
- d) Providing professional development and training opportunities for all coaching staff.